

was filed before receiving a reply.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the currently pending claims 8 to 18 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present application issue as early as possible.

If it would further allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the contact information shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

(By: *Quida N. Gundy*)  
Reg. No. 47084

Dated: *July 29, 2003*

By: *Richard L. Mayer*  
Richard L. Mayer  
(Reg. No. 22,490)

CUSTOMER NO. 26646

KENYON & KENYON  
One Broadway  
New York, New York 10004  
(212) 425-7200 (telephone)  
(212) 425-5288 (facsimile)